

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00489 091848Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, HA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: HAT APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIER

REF: STATE 022274

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON GOH DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION REGARDING HAITI AIR TRANSPORT'S PENDING APPLICATION BEFORE THE CAB. HE STATED THAT THE HAT APPLICATION WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN.
2. GOH HOPES THAT HAT WILL BE READY WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO CARRY PASSENGERS BETWEEN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND MIAMI, SAN JUAN, AND KINGSTON. THE GOH HOPES THAT ALM WILL VOLUNTARILY CANCEL ITS SERVICE OF THE PORT-AU-PRINCE--SAN JUAN ROUTE AS SOON AS HAT IS READY TO TAKE IT OVER. IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN, THE DCA HINTED THAT HE MAY TAKE ACTION DESIGNED TO PERSUADE ALM TO GIVE UP THE ROUTE. THE DCA STATED THAT THE GOH DOES NOT WISH TO SHARE THE LIMITED MARKET FOR THESE ROUTES WITH OTHER AIRLINES AND SEES ALM'S SAN JUAN ROUTE AS A TEMPORARY STOPGAP. THE DCA ADDED THAT THE GOH IS NOT SUPPORTING COLOMBIAN AIR CONDOR'S APPLICATION WITH USCAB FOR A BARRANQUILLA--PORT-AU-PRINCE--MIAMI ROUTE FOR THE SAME REASON: THAT THE GOH WISHES TO

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DISCOURAGE COMPETITION ON ITS INTENDED ROUTES.

3. HAT'S FINANCING WILL BE 60 PER CENT GOH FUNDS AND 40 PER CENT PRIVATE HAITIAN CAPITAL. FOUR SMALL PLANES ARE ENVISIONED. TWO WILL BE OWNED BY HAT AND TWO WILL BE WET-LEASED, PROBABLY FROM ALM.

4. ALM'S HAITIAN AGENT STATED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE STATUS OF ALM'S PLANS FOR THE SAN JUAN-HAITI ROUTE. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SERVICE WILL START BEFORE MAY 1, 1977. HE SUGGESTED THAT ALM'S MAIN OFFICE IN CURACAO BE CONTACTED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

COMMENT: DESPITE THE LONG STANDING GOH DESIRE FOR A HAITIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE, THE PROJECT IS OF DUBIOUS FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HAT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER AIRLINES SERVICING THE ROUTES. EVEN IF HAT WERE GRANTED A MONOPOLY FOR ITS ROUTES, ITS POTENTIAL PROFITABILITY WOULD BE UNCERTAIN. IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT GOH HAS FUNDS TO SUPPORT SUCH AN EXPENSIVE VENTURE, THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF WHICH SEEMS TO BE STATUS.

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Message Attributes

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